

IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID ADJUDICATOR,
PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD, ISLAMABAD

Petition No. 7 of 2026

(Arising out of

W.P. No. 1768 of 2025

Shujaat Ali & others

Vs.

Federation of Pakistan & others

Date of hearing: 09-06-2026

ORDER

1. This petition has arisen out of the order dated 19.05.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court in W.P. No. 1768 of 2025, whereby the writ petition was disposed of with the direction that the same be treated as an appeal and placed before the competent appellate authority of the Pakistan Sports Board for decision strictly in accordance with law. In compliance with the said order, Pakistan Sports Board referred the matter to the undersigned Adjudicator vide letter dated 04.06.2026.
2. Notices were issued to all concerned parties. The appellants/petitioners, Islamabad Sports Board (Respondent No.2), and the contesting respondents appeared before this forum and submitted their written replies, written arguments, constitutions, documentary evidence and relevant record. Learned counsel for the parties addressed detailed arguments. The record of the Islamabad Sports Board, the Constitution of the Islamabad Sports Board, the Constitution of the Islamabad Chess Association (ICA), the Constitution of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP), the Pakistan Sports Board Constitution, 2022, the pleadings before the Hon'ble High Court and all documents placed on record have been carefully examined.
3. The principal controversy is whether the Islamabad Sports Board acted without lawful authority by issuing the impugned letter dated 25.04.2025, supervising the election process held on 01.05.2025, and subsequently issuing the affiliation letter dated 05.05.2025 in favour of the elected office-bearers of the Islamabad Chess Association.
4. The petitioners contend that the election process had already commenced under the ICA Constitution through appointment of an Election Commissioner and issuance of election schedule, therefore the Islamabad Sports Board lacked jurisdiction to intervene or facilitate another election process. They further contend that the meeting held on 27.04.2025 and the election conducted on 01.05.2025 were contrary to the ICA Constitution and resulted in creation of an unlawful parallel body.

5. On the other hand, Islamabad Sports Board and the contesting respondents submit that serious governance disputes had arisen within the ICA; that the petitioners had failed to convene constitutional meetings, maintain transparency and preserve democratic functioning of the Association; that the General Body itself sought intervention of the Islamabad Sports Board; and that the elections were thereafter conducted under the supervision of ISB at a neutral venue through an independent Election Commissioner in order to ensure transparency, fairness and constitutional governance.
6. The Constitution of the Islamabad Sports Board clearly establishes the supervisory role of ISB over sports associations functioning within the Islamabad Capital Territory. Article 5(vi) expressly empowers ISB "to register Associations of Sports and hold their elections under supervision of the Board in the ICT." Article 5(vii) authorizes ISB to promote the efficient functioning of sports associations, while Articles 6(g), 6(h), 6(k) and 6(l) empower the Board to issue guidelines, regulate affiliated bodies, ensure compliance with its Constitution and take disciplinary measures where necessary. Likewise, Article 8(5)(b) authorizes settlement of disputes amongst associations, Article 8(5)(c) confers appellate jurisdiction upon the Executive Committee against actions of associations, whereas Article 15(10) authorizes the Director (Sports) to supervise, inspect, regulate and, where circumstances so require, appoint temporary bodies in accordance with law. These provisions collectively demonstrate that ISB is not merely a passive affiliating authority but possesses regulatory and supervisory jurisdiction over affiliated sports associations.
7. The record further reveals that the dispute within the ICA had resulted in rival factions, competing claims of office, objections regarding the electoral college, allegations of non-functioning office-bearers and demands by a substantial segment of the General Body for a transparent election under the supervision of ISB. Consequently, the Secretary, ISB directed that the General Body meeting be convened, appointed observers, designated a neutral venue and facilitated elections under its constitutional mandate. Such action cannot be regarded as unlawful interference but rather constituted an exercise of the statutory supervisory powers vested in ISB under its Constitution.
8. The petitioners have strongly argued that their election process had commenced earlier and therefore ISB could not intervene midway. However, commencement of an election process does not, by itself, oust the supervisory jurisdiction of the regulatory authority where serious disputes concerning legitimacy, governance, electoral college and constitutional compliance have arisen. The purpose of ISB's intervention was not to favour any particular faction but to restore democratic governance, transparency and credibility in the affairs of the Association.

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9. The petitioners have also argued that the impugned actions created a parallel association. The record, however, indicates that the parallelism had already emerged because rival factions were simultaneously claiming legitimacy. The action of ISB was intended to discourage such parallelism by recognizing only the electoral process conducted under its supervision in accordance with its constitutional mandate. The contention that ISB itself created a parallel body is therefore not borne out from the available record.
10. This forum is also mindful that affiliated sports associations voluntarily operate within the regulatory framework established by the Islamabad Sports Board and the Pakistan Sports Board. Once an association seeks affiliation, recognition and the privileges flowing therefrom, it remains subject to the supervisory jurisdiction of the competent sports authorities. The petitioners have failed to establish any mala fide, jurisdictional defect or violation of any mandatory provision of law which would justify setting aside the impugned actions of ISB.
11. For the foregoing reasons, this forum holds that the Islamabad Sports Board acted within the scope of the powers conferred upon it under its Constitution while issuing the letter dated 25.04.2025, supervising the election process held on 01.05.2025, and issuing the affiliation letter dated 05.05.2025. The elections conducted under the supervision of the Islamabad Sports Board cannot be declared illegal merely because a rival faction had initiated a separate election process outside the supervisory framework recognized by ISB.
12. Consequently, the present appeal, arising out of W.P. No. 1768 of 2025, is dismissed. The impugned actions of the Islamabad Sports Board are upheld. The elected body recognized by the Islamabad Sports Board shall continue to function in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamabad Chess Association, the Constitution of the Islamabad Sports Board, the Constitution of the Chess Federation of Pakistan and the applicable regulatory framework governing sports in Pakistan. It is, however, observed that all stakeholders shall ensure democratic governance, transparency, adherence to their respective constitutions and avoidance of parallel structures in the larger interest of the game of chess. Announced accordingly.



(SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID)
Adjudicator
Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad